

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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Council Members:

Richard Harper, Chairman

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Gail Fulton

Karen McCarthy

Phil Prinzivalli

Chuck Thomas



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

February 4, 2016 – 6:30pm

1. Roll Call

Present: Kippy Boyle, Gail Fulton, Phil Prinzivalli, Karen McCarthy
Chuck Thomas, Eliana Diaz (Secretary)

Excused: Richard Harper, Deborah Dresser

Guest: Laura Heady, Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell University (NYSDEC)
Paulina, SUNY New Paltz Intern
Jay Diesing, Architect, Mauri Architects
Virginia Kasinki, Outreach Manager, Downing Park Greenhouse Project

2. Approval of minutes from January 7, 2016

Motion by Karen McCarthy to approve minutes from January 7th

Motion Seconded: Deborah Dresser

The motion unanimously passed

3. Budget Report/Invoices:

In the budget report Ed Helwick does not appear, further inquiries are to be made to assure that he is being paid. The balance in the CAC budget is of \$9,735 the original budget was of \$10,600, there was an advanced payment of \$865 made to order trees, the funds came out of this year's budget.

4. Site Plan Reviews

399-401 Carpenter Avenue, Special Use Permit

Jay Diesing, Project Manager at Mauri Architects appeared. Mr. Diesing stated that the Site Plans for the property have been presented before the Planning Board. It was stated that the project consists of converting a single family home into a temporary residential facility for people who have suffered domestic violence and up to 20 people can be hosted in the facility. Mr. Diesing stated that the extended parking area will be of pervious pavement so the stormwater will drain directly into the pavement. The water will be filtrated through a gravel base which is about 18 - 24 inches of stone to filter the stormwater, hold it and allow the water to seep into the ground naturally. If there is runoff there's an outlet pipe that lets the stormwater come out through the side of the property and there is a

flare pipe with stone base to let the water discharge. A small drainage swale is to be created to re-direct water around the property. In addition the property will be connected to the municipal water system and the sewage pipes will be connected to the municipal sewer system. It was stated that rain gardens would be a good option to have at the downgrade end of the drainage swale. Blue spruce will be placed along the driveway. Boxwood, juniper, red maples, native blueberry and dogwood were given as a good option for planting, however, no bamboo or norway maples are to be used. The CAC stressed the importance of specifying native, non-invasive plants.

5. Newburgh NRI Presentation:

Laura Heady from the Hudson River Estuary Program briefly recapped that one of the interests of the CAC was to map habitats and understand natural resources particularly in the Washington Lake, Browns Pond watershed and Snake Hill area. The value of having a Natural Resources Inventory is that one compilation of a series of maps and a report can all be formulated. Paulina, the intern from SUNY New Paltz, can help put together the data that's already gathered at the DEC and put together some maps. The ultimate format that the CAC wants for their NRI report is still pending discussion. The scale of maps in the report was also discussed. Three rough drafts of maps were shown. There are different sizes that would be needed to properly display the important aspects of the map. If a layout is to be created the input from the CAC will always be needed in order to keep consistency. It was stated that if any kind of legend or index were to be included it should have enough space so that the binding of the book would block it from being readily seen. In addition for any type of reference the CAC email address is the best form of contact to be included. Base features for every map were discussed, the bodies of water in the City should always be labeled in addition to Downing Park. Richard suggested to go with Laura's expertise as far as the type of layers that should be included in the maps. In the future the CAC could request for potential planning board applicants to consult GIS maps once all of the information and layers are updated in the NRI. It was stated that one of the most important things to show in the maps is the drinking water resources.

6. Urban Farming Fair:

Virginia Kasinki, outreach manager from Downing Park Greenhouse Project. The project is funded by CDBG and its purpose is to restore the greenhouses at Downing Park. There is a need to expand the amount of gardens throughout the City. There are a number of parcels that are available. There is also a need for the City to introduce and facilitate urban farming, and on April 30th there will be an Urban Farming Fair at 54 Liberty Street from noon to 5pm, the CAC will have a table at the fair.

7. Old Business:

a) Newburgh Waterfront Updates:

i. Newburgh Landing

There are no updates on this topic.

ii. South Street Park

The question of what actions can be done to define South Street Park was posed and a possible solution was given by the engineering department stating that the cul-de-sac could be painted in order to define the hardscape from the soft scape. Being able to obtain garbage receptacles is still a question that is pending. It was stated that the park will be shovel ready for possible grant opportunities.

iii. Fishing Pier

DPW is in the process of cleaning up the debris around the fishing pier and once that cleanup is completed the pier will be open.

b) Tree Inventory Grant Closeout

There are no updates on this topic

c) Revise By-Laws to include more members

A discussion was held and a subcommittee was mentioned possible option. There could possibly be 11 members on the board. The by-laws need to be reviewed and new language needs to be drafted in order to be added and included. Another option mentioned was perhaps having a representative from each ward. Discussion will continue on this subject.

8. Subcommittee Reports

a) LWRP Update

The \$35,000 that were projected to be needed was not obtained by the City. It was mentioned that reaching out to Sarah at the BFJ will be good to find out what it will take to get started.

b) Parks

There are no updates on this topic.

c) Watershed

There are many threats to our water sources and more interest needs to be taken.

d) Air Quality

There are no updates on this topic.

e) Urban Forestry

- **Tree Trimmer hired**

Mr. Garrison from DPW has a tree trimmer who has been recently hired and is to start the first of February. A list has been developed with the most hazardous trees throughout the City, once this list is fully developed and updated with the help from Laurence it will be forwarded to DPW.

- **TD Bank Grant Application**

We are still waiting to hear the status of the grant

- **Arbor Day Plans**

It has a date of April 29th but the planting can be held any given day

- **Growth Awards & Recertification of Tree City USA**

The paperwork has been submitted for this year. A reminder should be placed in the CAC website.

9. Ongoing Environmental Concerns

a. Consolidated Iron Site

There will be a meeting at the site on February 8th generated by Scenic Hudson and the Planning Department. Kippy Boyle and Richard Harper will attend.

b. Ferry docking site after June lease expiration

There are no updates on this topic.

c. Broadway Demonstration Project

The planning board has declared itself lead agency on the project, parking variances have been approved and a site plan has to be provided. It is to begin in spring, materials are to be ordered soon.

d. Pilgrim Pipeline

A letter is to be sent to the commissioner asking the NYS thruway to not be co-lead agency.

10. Calendar of Upcoming Events

- February 6 – CAC Roundtable – Scenic Hudson
- April 30 – Urban Farming Fair – 54 Liberty Street

11. 2015 Volunteer Hours/2016

Any volunteer hours must be reported to Kippy.

Motion to Adjourn: **Karen McCarthy**

Motion Seconded: **Chuck Thomas**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50p.m.

Project Reviews by CAC in 2016

198 South Robinson Ave. Special Use Permit comments to PB	

Project Reviews by CAC in 2015

First St. Fishing Pier; Comments to Engineering 6/8/15	Habitat Newburgh- Ann St. at Johnston, four units; CAC Ltr 9/04/15
Safe Harbors Park- Broadway at Liberty; comments to PB 8/12/15	Habitat Newburgh – 123 Washington Street – street trees
T/Newburgh Matrix Development in City Watershed- 17K/I-87; CAC Ltr 8/20/15	

Project Reviews by CAC in 2014

Shell Gas Station (405 Bway)	Independent living
Rt 300- Crystal Run	Re-Zoning/ LWRP Update
Water Tower Replacement	Newburgh Landing/ South St./ Fishing Pier
Torches	Tyrone Crabb Park Planting List
#5 Scobie Drive	North Montgomery St.